



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SACRAMENTO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
650 CAPITOL MALL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF  
SPKCO-O

21 July 1981

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 7651

07810729-060

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

**Subject:** Application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge fill material into the Great Salt Lake, as shown on the attached drawing.

**Applicant:** Great Salt Lake Minerals and Chemicals Corporation, P.O. Box 1190, Ogden, Utah 84402.

**Location:** The project site is located in the Bear River Bay of the Great Salt Lake within Weber and Box Elder Counties, and approximately 15 miles west of Ogden, Utah.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the fill is to provide a system of dikes for proposed solar evaporation ponds which would be used for recovery of minerals.

**Project Description:** The applicant proposes to construct approximately 43 miles of earth dikes. Approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of fill material would be obtained from borrow pits located along the Promontory Mountains. The material would be hauled in by dump truck. The height of the dikes would range from 5 to 9 feet with a minimum crest width of 20 feet. The total area which would be inclosed by the dikes is approximately 17,000 acres.

**Additional Information:** The existing pond system was built in 1967 and expanded in 1969 and 1973 to its present size of 17,000 acres. The existing and proposed ponds are located on 85,000 acres of land which has been leased by Great Salt Lake Minerals and Chemicals Corporation from the State of Utah under various mineral leases. Water rights to the brine and process water from the Bear River were granted by the State of Utah. The products which are presently extracted from the brine are sulfate of potash, sodium sulfate, sodium chloride, and magnesium chloride.

The Bear River would flow between the pond system and Promontory and then under the existing bridge. The bridge has a total span of 700 feet and carries a wooden bridge for brine transfer. South of this bridge, the flow continues between pond dikes until it passes through the bridge in the Southern Pacific Railroad causeway.

The area to be inclosed within the dikes does not contain any vegetated wetlands. During lower water stages the area is primarily mudflat and during higher water the area holds standing water. The water quality of this area varies with lake level, Bear River flow and wind condition from nearly fresh to brine.

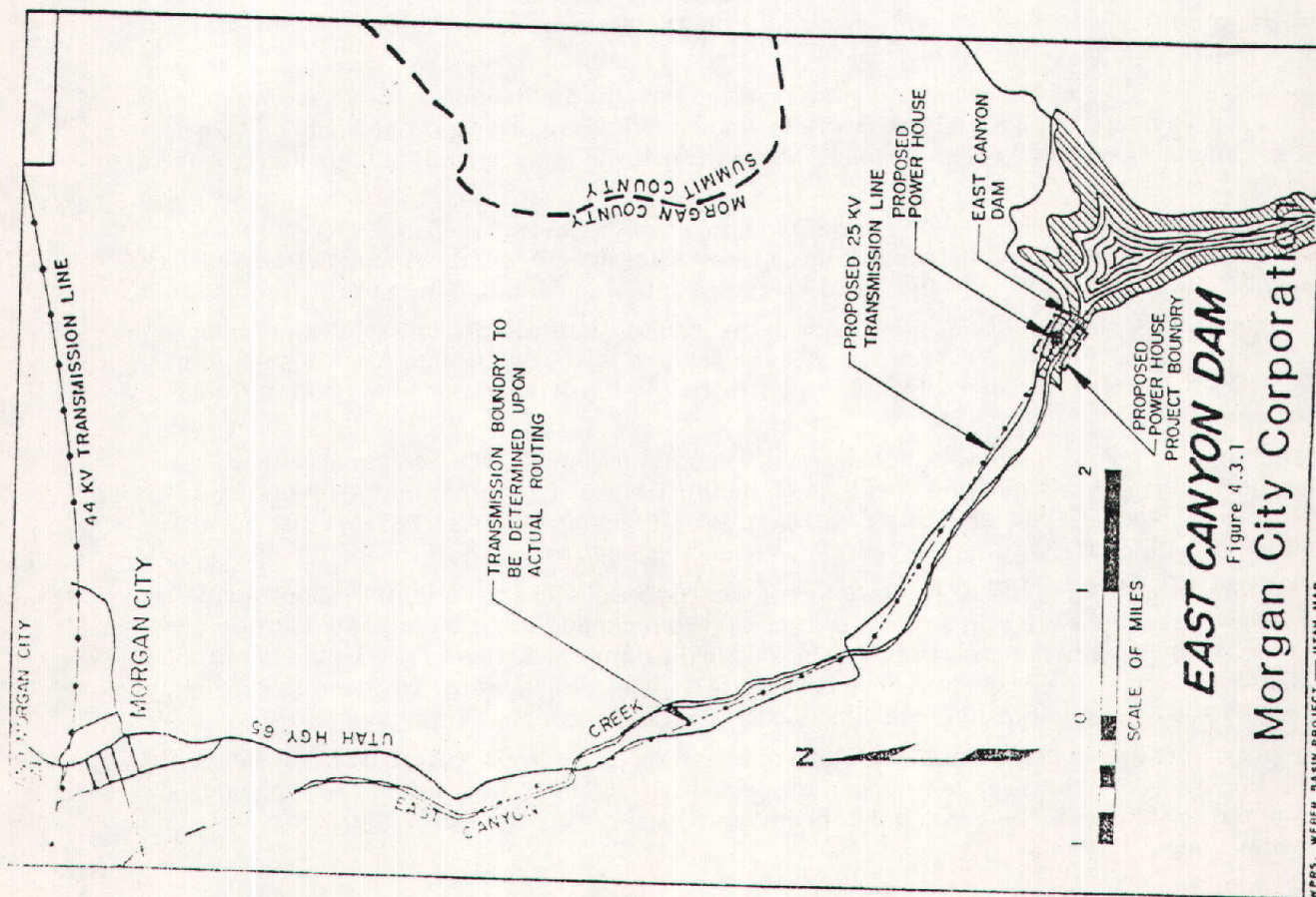
The applicant has coordinated this proposal with the State of Utah and possible schemes of mitigating potential impacts have been discussed. To date, however, a plan of mitigation has not been formally recommended by the State of Utah nor agreed to by the Great Salt Lake Minerals and Chemicals Corporation.

Certification that the proposed work, if permitted, will not violate applicable water quality standards, has been requested from the Utah Bureau of Water Pollution Control. For further information, contact U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Post Office Building, Room 341, 350 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, telephone (801) 524-6015.

The latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and its monthly supplements have been reviewed and there are no places either listed or recommended as eligible which would be affected. Presently unknown cultural resources may be located in the permit area. This activity would not affect any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. The District Engineer has made this determination based on information provided by the applicant and on the Corps' preliminary evaluation.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **21 August 1981**. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.







21 July 1981

A permit issued by the Department of the Army does not give any property rights either in real estate or material or any exclusive privileges and does not authorize any injury of private property or invasion of private rights, or any infringement of Federal, State or local laws or regulations, nor does it obviate the necessity of obtaining State or local assent to the work authorized.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the impact of this activity on the public interest under authority of **Section 404** of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Evaluation will include application of guidelines set forth by Administrator, EPA, under authority of the Act (40 CFR Part 230). That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. No permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be in the public interest. Based on our preliminary evaluation, there will be no significant environmental impacts.

1 Incl  
1 Drawing

PAUL F. KAVANAUGH  
Colonel, CE  
Commander and District Engineer



